

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 15-19 have been canceled in the Preliminary Amendment which was submitted on October 3, 2004, and claims 2, 3, 9-14 and 20-28 have been canceled in this amendment without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over Sakashita et al. (US Patent No. 4,645,437). This claim has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and without any comment on the merits of the Examiner's rejection.

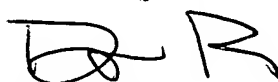
Claims 4-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. However, the Examiner has also indicated that claims 4-6 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph and to include the limitation of canceled base claim 2. The indication that these claims contain allowable subject matter is noted and appreciated.

In response, claim 4 has been amended to include the limitations of base claim 2. The dependency of claim 6 has been amended so that claims 5 and 6 now both depend from amended claim 4. In addition, claims 4 and 6 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner to comply with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Therefore, claims 4-6 are now in allowable form.

In addition, it is respectfully requested that withdrawn claims 7-8 be re-added and allowed by virtue of their ultimate dependency on allowable claim 4.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt notice to that effect is respectfully requested. Although no additional fees are believed to be due, permission is hereby given to charge any unforeseen fees to deposit account 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. G. Posz', written over a horizontal line.

David G. Posz

Reg. No. 37,701

Customer No. 23400

Posz & Bethards, PLC
11250 Roger Bacon Drive, Suite 10
Reston, VA 20190
(703) 707-9110